

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
AIR QUALITY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, November 4, 2004
MAG Office
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stephen Cleveland, City of Goodyear, Chairman
Avondale: Michael Powell
*Buckeye: Carroll Reynolds
*Chandler: Jim Weiss
*Gilbert: Tami Ryall
Glendale: Cathy Chaberski for Doug Kukino
Mesa: Scott Bouchie
Phoenix: Gaye Knight
Scottsdale: Larry Person
Surprise: Jim Nichols
Tempe: Oddvar Tveit
*Citizen Representative: Walter Bouchard
*American Lung Association of Arizona: Bill Pfeifer
Salt River Project: Sunil Varma for Chris Janick
Southwest Gas Corporation: Brian O'Donnell
Arizona Public Service Company: Jim Mikula
#Western States Petroleum Association: Gina Grey
Valley Metro: Randi Alcott
Arizona Motor Transport Association: Dave Berry
*Maricopa County Farm Bureau: Jeannette Fish
Arizona Rock Products Association: Steve Trussell
for Rusty Bowers
*Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce: Michelle Rill

*Associated General Contractors: Amanda McGennis
*Homebuilders Association of Central Arizona:
Connie Wilhelm-Garcia
*American Institute of Architects - Central Arizona:
Stephen J. Andros
Valley Forward: Mannie Carpenter for Peter Allard
University of Arizona - Cooperative Extension:
Patrick Clay
Arizona Department of Transportation: Beverly
Chenausky for Mark Wheaton
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality: Mark
Fitch for Peter Hyde
Maricopa County Environmental Services
Department: Jo Crumbaker
Arizona Department of Weights and Measures:
Duane Yantorno
*Federal Highway Administration: Ed Stillings
*Arizona State University: Judi Nelson
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community: Ondrea
Barber for B. Bobby Ramirez
*Citizen Representative: David Rueckert

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.
#Participated via telephone conference call.
+Participated via video conference call.

OTHERS PRESENT

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments
Dean Giles, Maricopa Association of Governments
Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Cathy Arthur, Maricopa Association of Governments
Ruey-in Chiou, Maricopa Association of
Governments
Brenda Day, Maricopa Association of Governments
Craig Chenery, Maricopa Association of
Governments

Stephen Gross, Maricopa Association of
Governments
#Wienke Tax, Environmental Protection Agency
Jeff Baxter, Stevens & Stevens, P.C.
+Bryant Powell, City of Apache Junction
Tim Pickering, Town of Fountain Hills
Kathleen Sommer, Arizona Department of
Transportation
Laura Tsosie, Arizona Department of Transportation

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the MAG Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee was conducted on November 4, 2004. Stephen Cleveland, City of Goodyear, Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 1:40 p.m. Wienke Tax, Environmental Protection Agency, and Gina Grey, Western States Petroleum Association, attended the meeting via telephone conference call. Bryant Powell, City of Apache Junction, attended the meeting via video conference call. Members of the Committee participating via telephone and video conference call were faxed copies of the materials distributed at the meeting.

2. Call to the Audience

Mr. Cleveland stated that, according to the MAG public comment process, members of the audience who wish to speak are requested to fill out comment cards, which are available on the table adjacent to the doorway inside the meeting room. Citizens are asked not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. Public comment is provided at the beginning of the meeting for nonagenda items and nonaction agenda items. Mr. Cleveland noted that no public comment cards had been received.

3. Approval of the September 30, 2004 Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes from the September 30, 2004 meeting. Scott Bouchie, City of Mesa, moved and Larry Person, City of Scottsdale, seconded and the motion to approve the September 30, 2004 meeting minutes carried unanimously.

4. Transportation Conformity Requirements for the New 8-Hour Ozone Standard

Cathy Arthur, Maricopa Association of Governments, presented the transportation conformity requirements for the new eight-hour ozone standard. The Environmental Protection Agency published the conformity rule on July 1, 2004, which identified eight-hour ozone nonattainment area “scenarios” and appropriate tests. Ms. Arthur stated that, based on the rule, this region is considered to be “Scenario Four”, meaning the eight-hour nonattainment area is larger than the one-hour, but excludes a portion of the one-hour nonattainment area (the Gila River Indian Community). She discussed the conformity budget, interim emissions tests, and the analysis years for eight-hour ozone. Ms. Arthur mentioned the latest planning assumptions and provided a conformity schedule for the new eight-hour ozone standard.

Brian O'Donnell, Southwest Gas Corporation, inquired about the emissions that are being removed from the budgets for the Gila River Indian Community. Ms. Arthur responded that growth will be monitored and included in the budgets; only the local traffic from the Gila River Indian Community will be removed. Michael Powell, City of Avondale, asked how the budget test was impacted by the removal of the Gila River Indian Community. Ms. Arthur replied that removing emissions from local traffic in the Gila River Indian Community resulted in a reduction of approximately 70 kilograms per day for the one-hour ozone budget, which was rounded up to 100 kilograms per day. She added that in 2015 the emissions will be decreasing due to the implementation of the federally-mandated Tier 2 tailpipe standards.

Randi Alcott, Regional Public Transportation Authority, inquired about why the Gila River Indian Community was not included in the eight-hour ozone nonattainment area. Ms. Arthur responded that an analysis determined that most of the point and area sources are inside the eight-hour ozone nonattainment area. Ms. Alcott commented on a source within the Gila River Indian Community. Jo Crumbaker, Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, said she would need to report back on the location of the source, but air flow was a factor in the analysis.

Dave Berry, Arizona Motor Transport Association, asked about the budget test. Ms. Arthur responded that the emissions generated are determined by dispersion modeling, which takes into account meteorology. Mr. Berry asked if transport from the California fires had been considered. Ms. Arthur replied that the days modeled were not impacted by the smoke from the California fires. She added that a study by the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) is currently being conducted that will determine the impact of fires on visibility.

Mr. Berry asked if conformity analyses on the one-hour and eight-hour ozone nonattainment areas will always need to be separate. Ms. Arthur responded that the conformity analyses will be separate until the State Implementation Plan for eight-hour ozone is submitted in 2007. Mr. Berry commented on growth in the “egg white” area (the eight-hour ozone nonattainment area not covered by the one-hour area) and asked if the next three years will cause a constraint. He also mentioned growth occurring on the west side of the White Tank Mountains. Ms. Arthur replied that the final model runs have not been completed, but nitrogen oxides will increase because of growth in the “egg white” area; however, this will not cause a constraint. She added that the latest population projections were adopted in 2003. The conformity determination on the FY 2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program and Regional Transportation Plan, to be conducted next Spring, will be based on new population projections, if they have been adopted before the conformity analysis begins.

Mr. Berry asked what would happen if the region went over the budget. Ms. Arthur indicated that all regionally significant projects could be stopped; however, there is some flexibility to modify the Regional Transportation Plan to show conformity. Mr. Berry asked if an “egg white” budget exceedance would cause all construction to come to a halt. Ms. Arthur responded that it would. Mr. Berry inquired how close the region is to exceeding the budget. Ms. Arthur stated that after the model runs are completed, an estimate on the margin can be calculated for 2026. However, growth in the “egg white” area is expected to quadruple between 2006 and 2026, and the area is still under the budget threshold.

Mr. Powell commented on the 50 percent reductions in the “egg yolk” area. Ms. Arthur responded that the Tier 2 tailpipe standards, low sulfur gas and diesel fuels, and heavy duty engine standards will result in significant reductions. Mr. Powell asked if these standards are guaranteed. Ms. Arthur replied that the standards are federally-mandated and typically are not delayed. Mr. O’Donnell inquired about the vehicle registrations used for the conformity analysis. Ms. Arthur responded that all vehicle registrations obtained from Arizona Department of Transportation for Maricopa County are included.

5. Update on the Salt River PM-10 State Implementation Plan Revision and Other PM-10 Issues

Lindy Bauer, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided a brief update on PM-10 issues. She stated that the Salt River PM-10 State Implementation Plan Revision is designed to meet the Environmental Protection Agency requirements to implement additional control measures and demonstrate attainment of the 24-hour PM-10 standard in the Salt River Study Area by December 31, 2006. Ms. Bauer added that the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County have implemented aggressive measures to reduce particulates in this area. In addition, Maricopa County added new monitors which operate continually on a 24-hour basis rather than every sixth day.

Gaye Knight, City of Phoenix, discussed the efforts to stabilize the Salt River Study Area. She presented an illustration of the dust potential in the study area. Pictures were shown of the improvements made, and the costs incurred by the City of Phoenix for stabilization were discussed. In addition, an update was given on the Rio Salado Wetlands project, street sweeping, and shoulder research in the Salt River Study Area.

Ms. Crumbaker provided an update on 2004 PM-10 monitoring data. She indicated that monitored exceedances occurred on three days: August 13th, September 18th, and October 9th. Ms. Crumbaker mentioned what happens when a monitor measures an exceedance and the high correlation between wind speed and PM-10 concentrations. She also presented the number of days each continual monitor exceeded 100 micrograms per cubic meter in October 2004. Ms. Tax asked what the PM-10 concentration was at the Higley monitor on October 9, 2004. Ms. Crumbaker responded 159.6 micrograms per cubic meter.

6. Update on Air Quality Monitoring Data for the 8-Hour Ozone Standard

Julie Hoffman, Maricopa Association of Governments, provided an update on the air quality monitoring data for the eight-hour ozone standard. In 2004, the North Phoenix monitor recorded the only exceedance, which occurred on July 27, 2004 with an ozone concentration of .087 parts per million. However, the North Phoenix monitor is not violating the standard. Since the standard is calculated by averaging three-years of the fourth highest ozone concentration at each monitor, the only violating monitor is Humboldt Mountain. Ms. Hoffman added that this is an improvement from 2003 when there were 40 exceedances and two violating monitors. In addition, the number of ozone health watches and high pollution advisories has also decreased in 2004. A table was provided to the Committee that shows the 2002-2004 ozone monitoring data.

7. Call for Future Agenda Items

Mr. Cleveland announced that the next meeting of the Committee is tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2004. He encouraged the Committee to provide MAG staff with suggestions for future agenda items.

Ms. Knight asked that an update be provided at the next meeting by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality on the Salt River PM-10 State Implementation Plan Revision.